REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 were pending. Claims 1-28 rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious by Pickett or Pickett in view Hall et al. In light of the amendments and the following remarks, the undersigned requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Numerous amendments have been made to the claims for what the undersigned believes reflects better grammar and for correction of typographical errors. Such amendments should not be construed as amendments for purposes of patentability.

I. The Present Invention

As was discussed with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor recently, the present invention relates to a telephone communications interface for a computer that provides electrical power to attached telephones. As amended, claim 1, for example, now recites wherein a peak voltage of the ringing signal is provided to no more than approximately one half of the maximum number of telephones at a time and wherein the telephones are on separate circuits.

II. The Cited References

A. Pickett

Pickett was previously discussed. The Examiner agreed that Pickett did not disclose ringing less than all telephones at a time.

B. Hall

As was also discussed, Hall appears to disclose generating a ringing signal for use on party lines. As is known, with party lines, telephones are coupled to the same telephone circuit, hence the term "party line."

Hall discloses a common ringing signal is supplied to EACH telephone on a party line. However, not all phones ring at the same time. This is because the ringing signal is provided at different frequencies, and that each phone is responsive to different ringing frequency. In particular, Hall discloses:

> That is, up to five phones may be simultaneously connected to a particular party line. Each phone on the line may be made responsive to a ringing signal of a different frequency, such as by a band pass filter. Col. 20, lines 51-57.

It should be understood that the ringer circuit contemplated in Hall must still be able to drive ALL telephones on the party line. Further, Hall discloses providing a ringing signal to telephones that are on the same telephone circuit.

In the Advisory Action mailed 7/24/03, the Examiner asserts that Hall, col. 21, lines 57-62 discloses more than just a party line. The Examiner asserts Hall teaches scheduling subscribers into groups of up to three subscribers for each two-second portion of the six-second duty cycle. This is not so., Hall only discloses a party line. Hall cols. 20, line 51 - col. 21, line 10 is reproduced below:

> A different ringing scheme is utilized by the independent telephone companies for party lines in that the independents use different frequencies. That is, **up to five phones may be simultaneously connected to a particular party line**. Each phone on the line may be made responsive to a ringing signal of a different frequency, such as by band pass filtering. A duty cycle of one second on and four seconds off is imposed by the software on the ring generator shown in FIG. 10 for independent ringing. That is, **all five telephones on a particular party line** may be rung during a five-second interval, by imposing a different frequency ringing signal on the line during each one-second interval of the five total seconds in the duty cycle. This can be understood more clearly by imagining that **all five telephones connected to a particular party line** were in a particular house. If all five phones were called simultaneously, the ringer scheduling circuitry disclosed herein would generate a different frequency ringing signal during each second of the five total seconds of the duty cycle. **Thus, the phones would all be ringing,** but the actual ring portion of the familiar on-off ringing would not occur in more than one phone at any particular instance in time. If all five phones were lined up in a row, phone 1 would ring during the first second, phone 2 would ring during the second [second], phone 3 would ring during the third second, and so on, until all five phones had rung their first ring. Emphasis added.

Thus, as clearly illustrated, the passage cited by the Examiner only discloses a "party line" system, where all phones are connected to the "party line."

III. Cited Reference Distinguished

In response to the rejections of claims 1-28 as being obvious in light of Pickett and in light of Pickett in view of Hall, the undersigned respectfully traverses these rejections and the Examiner's assertions.

A. Claim 1

Pickett and Hall do not disclose, teach, or suggest all the limitations of Claim 1. For example, neither reference discloses the limitation of wherein the telephones are on separate circuits .

In contrast, as disclosed above, Hall only discloses a system where all telephones are connected on one circuit known as a "party line."

Further, Hall does not disclose generating a ringing signal in response to the ringer power and to the secondary voltage, wherein a peak voltage of the ringing signal is provided to no more than approximately one half of the maximum number of telephones at a time.

In contrast, as disclosed above, in the arrangement in Hall, the ringer circuit has to be able to power all telephones on the circuit at the same time. In Hall, only certain phones actually ring, because of band-pass filters are installed on the different telephones, however, the ringer power is still applied to all phones.

In light of at least the above limitations, the Examiner has not demonstrated prima facie obviousness, accordingly, claim 1 is asserted to be allowable.

B. Claim 18

Pickett and Hall do not disclose, teach, or suggest all the limitations of Claim 18 to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, Pickett does not disclose generating a ringing drive voltage within the telecommunications interface in response to the first drive voltage and to the enabling signal , wherein a ringer circuit is configured to provide the ringing drive voltage to a subset of a maximum number of telephones that may be coupled to the telecommunications interface at one time, and wherein the telephones are coupled to separate telephone lines ;

In contrast, Hall only discloses a "party line" where the telephones are only coupled on a common telephone line. Further, the ringer circuit in Hall must be capable to ring all telephones on the party line at the same time.

In light of at least the above limitations, the Examiner has not demonstrated prima facie obviousness, accordingly, claim 18 is asserted to be allowable.

C. Remaining claims

Claims 2-8 dependent on claim 1, are also asserted to be allowable for similar reasons as claim 1 and more specifically, for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 9 is asserted to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 1 and for the specific limitations it recites. Claims 10-17, dependent from claim 9, are also asserted to be allowable for similar reasons as claim 9 and more specifically, for the additional limitations they recite.

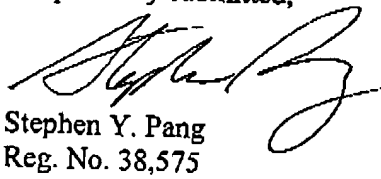
Claims 19-28 dependent from claim 18, are also asserted to be allowable for similar reasons as claim 18 and more specifically, for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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